

Shellfish landings exhibited an overall increase from 1972 to 2002 (table 1). Shellfish landings remained steady from 1972 to 1977, increased during 1978 to 1980, and remained fairly stable until 1992. Shellfish landings then increased from 1992 to 1996 but from 1997 to 2002, an decreasing trend is observed. The landings of shellfish ranged from a maximum of 74 million pounds in 1996 to a minimum of 17 million pounds in 1975.

The percent value of shellfish landings fluctuated widely from 1972 to 1984 (Figure 4). However, from 1984 to 2002 the percent value of shellfish has been greater than the percent value of finfish. The percent value of shellfish exhibited an increasing trend from 1984 to 1999 and then began to show a decreasing trend overall from 1999 to 2002. The percent value of shellfish reached a maximum at 65% in 1999 and a low of 37% in 1981.

The current value for shellfish landed in North Carolina exhibited an overall increase from 1972 to 2002 (Table 3). The current value increased slowly from 1972 to 1977. From 1977 to 1993, the current value fluctuated dramatically, but increased overall. A dramatic increase in current value was observed from 1992 to 1995, at which point it stabilized, and decreased greatly in 2001. The current value ended the period with an increase in 2002. The current value ranged from a maximum of \$68 million in 2000 to a minimum of \$6 million in 1972.

The deflated value for shellfish landed in North Carolina exhibited an overall increase from 1972 to 2002 (Table 3). The deflated value for shellfish remained stable from 1972 to 1975, increased in 1976, and remained steady until 1978. The deflated value fluctuated between \$9 million and \$17 million from 1979 to 1982 and then remained stable from 1982 through 1991. The deflated value decreased in 1992 but then quickly increased in 1993 and continued the trend until 1995. The deflated value remained steady from 1995 to 2000 but during the next two years, an overall decline is observed. The deflated value for shellfish ranged from a maximum of \$18 million in 1995 to a minimum of \$5.6 million in 1975.

The Shellfish CPUE did not exhibit an overall change from 1994 to 2002, and is not as variable as the CPUE for finfish (Figure 5). The shellfish CPUE increased until 1996, and then remained constant until 1999. A decreasing trend then occurred from